

THE SPECTATOR

July 31, 2006

www.northstarleague.org



2006 Reviewed

The Spectator's predictions for the 2006 season were published in the preview edition in April. Let's take a look at how the prognosis compares with the actual results.

EAST

Maple Plain was predicted to win and they did, but they won on the basis of their pitching. Their team hitting average dropped from .314 in 2005 to .289 in 2006.

Mound was picked for third as they hoped to return to 2004 form. They rallied many times to win in the last inning and did get back above .500 by going from 4 wins last year to 9 in 2006.

Loretto was forecast for second based on their hitting, but actually finished near the bottom in hitting and near the top in pitching stats..

Albertville finished fourth coming up one win short of their 2005 season record.

The River Bandits struggled at the end of the year and matched their 2005 record, finishing with 3 wins.

CENTRAL

St Michael, picked for 3rd, ran off 11 straight wins to begin the season and won the division by 3 games.

D-C won the same number of games as they did tying for the 2005 crown. Picked to win it this year, D-C ran into a couple of surprise upsets, but still finished with a strong 12-5 league record.

The close race predicted in the division turned out to be for 3rd place as Delano (predicted to be 4th) and Hutch (predicted for 5th) tied for 3rd with 8 wins and 9 losses. Maple Lake (picked for 2nd) finished a game behind with a disappointing 7-10 record.

WEST

Howard Lake was predicted to win the West if they got a little improvement at the plate. They got a lot of improvement at the plate and won 10 in a row to run away with the division.

The Bulldogs were expected to start slow and gain ground as the season progressed to finish second. They actually started out slightly ahead in the division and never gained the consistency expected, but did finish second.

The Kings finished third with 6 victories and had breakthrough victories over D-C and the Diamond Devils. They were predicted to be improved, but probably still finish last. Nice season!

Monticello fielded a young and unknown team that needed a year to rebuild and finished fourth by a game (predicted to be third).

From the Bleachers—

Listed below is the increase or decrease in games won from 2005 to 2006.

St Michael	+ 6 games	Hutchinson	+1	Albertville	- 1
Mound	+ 5	Rockford	0 change	Delano	- 4
Kingston	+ 3	Dassel-Cokato	0 change	Maple Lake	- 5
Howard Lake	+ 2	Maple Plain	- 1	Monticello	- 6
Buffalo	+1	Loretto	- 1		

"How baseball is like a church Many attend but few understand." - Wes Westrum

<i>FINAL</i>			
	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>G.B.</i>
<i>MAPLE PLAIN</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>...</i>
<i>MOUND</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>LORETTO</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>ALBERTVILLE</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>ROCKFORD</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>9</i>



2005 finish—1st , 2006 finish—1st. The top hitting team in 2005 at .314, the Devils wound up 4th in 2006 at .289. They remained 3rd in ERA going from 2.10 to 2.48. Runs scored were down from 126 to 102 and runs allowed increased from 42 to 50.

Top B.Avg– Brad Mazer 19 for 40, .485. Most runs–Brandon Schliinz, 16. Most Hits—K.C. Johnson and Adam Gregg, 23. RBI’s—Gregg, 15
Pitching—IP—C.J. Goodwald, 50.
Adam Gregg led in Wins with 4, K’s with 26 and ERA at 0.92

<i>FINAL STATS</i>				
<i>Player</i>	<i>AB</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Ave</i>
B Mazer MP	40	12	19	475
A Snyder Md	68	20	28	412
D Brant Alb	53	8	20	377
G Barthel Md	68	7	25	368
A Gregg MP	63	13	23	365
M Daugs Roc	51	13	18	353
P Sycks Md	73	10	25	342
KC Johnson MP	68	15	23	338
B Schliinz MP	60	16	20	333
P Harrell Md	51	7	16	314
T Klaers Alb	64	10	20	313
R Rassatt Roc	55	3	17	309
MGoodwald MP	52	13	16	308
T Traen Lor	52	9	16	308

2B Leader <i>P Sycks 8</i>	3B Leaders <i>P Harrell 2</i> <i>B Schliinz 2</i>
HR Leader <i>KC Johnson 2</i> <i>A Snyder 2</i> <i>S McLaughlin 2</i>	RBI Leader <i>P Sycks 16</i>

<i>Pitching Leaders</i>	<i>IP</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>ERA</i>
A Gregg MP	39	4-1	26	0.92	
N Koch Lor	84	5-4	26	3.11	
T Klaers Alb	48	2-4	19	3.72	
J Lesser Roc	64	2-7	29	4.31	
M Mitchell Md	39	1-2	24	4.58	



The Mallards regrouped to move from 4th to 2nd in 2006. They rose from 9th to 8th in hitting, .246 to .272. ERA was lowered from 4.81 to 4.24, 10th best in ‘05 to 8th in ‘06. Runs scored up from 71 to 89. Runs allowed down from 118 to 99.

Best Average– Andy Snyder .412 (28 for 68). Most hits– Snyder 28. Most runs– Snyder 20, Most RBI’s- Peter Syks 16.
Pitching—IP- Mike Mitchell, 39. Wins- Luke Ludvigson, 3-0.
Strikeouts– Joel Utecht, 34. ERA—Grant Barthel 3.00



The Larks moved from 2nd place to a 3rd place finish this year. Dropping from .298 (3rd) to .258 (12th) may have contributed. ERA of 5.20 (13th) improved to 3.68 (5th best). Runs scored decreased from 1088 to 89 while runs allowed also decreased, 120 to 89.

Leaders—Average–Reed Pawelk .371(13 for 35). Hits—Brandon Scanlon, 21. Runs–Scanlon, 16. RBI’s– Eric Schutte, 11.
Pitcher–Nick Koch IP - 84 (league leader) Wins—5, K’s—26, ERA 3.11



The Villains 3rd place last year ended up in 4th this year. Runs scored were less, 89 to 72, runs allowed also less, 142 to 116. Their hitting changed from 4th in the league (.281) to 9th this year (.266). ERA, last in ‘05 at 5.95 improved to 11th at 4.52.

Top Average – Ryan Aaserud .500 (9 for 18), Runs –Todd Klaers, 10
Hits – Klaers and Dan Brant, 20. RBI’s – Klaers, 12.
Pitching–IP– Klaers, 48. Wins—Klaers, 2.
Strikeouts—Josh Juntunen, 36. ERA—Juntunen, 2.70



No change in the number of wins means no change in the River Bandits 5th place finish. The 6th best hitting team in ‘05 at .273, the Bandits fell to 14th at .220 in ‘06. ERA of 5.13 (12th last year) became 5.39 (13th this year). Runs scored went down from 77 to 62 and runs allowed went up from 121 to 138.

Best average belonged to Mike Daugs at .353 (18 for 51).
Most hits—Daugs, 18. Most runs–Daugs, 13, RBI’s—Ryan Rassatt, 12
Jason Lesser led Rockford in all pitching categories—IP at 65, Wins with 2, Strikeouts, 29 and ERA of 4.31.



I don't care how long you've been around, you'll never see it all.
~Bob Lemon



The Orphans used a 10 game winning streak to claim the ring in the West, up from 2nd place last year. Improvement was most evident in hitting, rising from .226 (14th) to .289 (3rd best). Runs scored increased from 81 to 124. ERA of 1.58 (1st last year) moved to 3.26 (4th in '06). Runs allowed went up from 56 in 2005 to 65 this year.

Best average—Luke Gagnon, .378 (14 for 37). Most hits— Ben Borrell, 20
Most runs—Luke Gagnon, 16. RBI's—John Stueven, 14.

Pitching leaders—IP—Jake Streich, 40. Wins—Streich, 4-0.
Strikeouts—Shane Heber, 32 and ERA—Aaron DesMarais at 2.42.

FINAL			
	W	L	G.B.
HOWARD LAKE	12	4	--
BUFFALO	7	9	5
KINGSTON	6	10	6
MONTICELLO	5	11	7



The Bulldogs climbed from 3rd to 2nd in the West. Ranking 12th in batting average at .237 in '05, they improved to 10th at .260 in 2006. ERA of 3.96 (8th best) dropped to 4.40 (10th). Runs scored rose from 61 to 72 and runs allowed also rose from 83 to 102.

Best average—Ed Cox .444 (8 for 18) and Nate Hill at .400 (18 for 45).
Most hits—Hill, 18. Most runs— Tyler Anthony, 11. RBI's—Hill, 11.

Most IP—Nate Hill-37. Most wins— Ed Cox, 3. Strikeouts—Hill, 37
Lowest ERA—Ed Cox at 3.09.

FINAL STATS				
Player	AB	R	H	Ave
B Aho Kin	56	11	24	429
N Hill Buf	45	9	18	400
B Veches Mon	40	9	15	375
A Des Marais HL	52	8	19	365
B Borrell HL	60	13	20	333
Mt Loegering Mon	45	6	15	333
J Stueven HL	59	13	19	322
Al Hendrickson Kn	52	7	16	308
R Bethke Buf	46	7	14	304
T Sonnek HL	53	13	16	302

2B Leader	3B Leaders
T Broboske 4	B Borrell HL 2
HR Leader	B Aho 2
B Borrell 2	A Stein Mon 2
B Aho 2	RBI Leader
	J Stueven HL 14

Pitching Leaders	IP	W	L	K	ERA
J Streich HL	40	4-0	31	2.93	
N Hill Buf	37	2-3	37	3.65	
C Picken Kin	38	3-4	19	4.89	
A Stein Mon	38	2-6	25	4.97	



Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too.
~Greg, age 8



A 3 game improvement in wins moved the Kings from 4th up to 3rd place. The stats didn't change much, batting average rank was 13th both years, .228 in '05 and .232 in '06. ERA changed from 11th to 14th, 5.11 in '05 to 5.53 this year. 62 runs scored last year became 60 this year. 100 runs allowed became 113 in 2006.

Hitting leaders—Average— Bill Aho .429 (24 for 56). Most hits—Aho, 24
Most runs—Aho, 11. Most RBI's—Al Hendrickson with 8.

Pitching leaders—IP—Chris Picken, 37. Strikeouts— Brian Dietz, 22.
Most wins—Picken and Dietz with 3. Lowest ERA—Al Hendrickson at 2.16.



The young, rebuilding Polecats won 5 games as they fell from first to fourth in the division. Their hitting dropped from 8th to 11th, but rose from .250 to .260. ERA went from 2.39 (4th last year) to 4.13 (7th this year). Runs scored decreased from 86 to 65 and runs allowed increased from 76 to 87.

The top average belonged to Eric Schreifels at .455 (10 for 22) and Brandon Veches at .375 (15 for 40).
Most hits—Veches and Matt Loegering with 15. Most runs—Veches, 9. RBI's—Matt Loegering with 9.

Pitching leaders: IP—Alex Stein with 38. Most wins—Stein with 2. Strikeouts—Matt Loegering with 34.
Lowest ERA—Mat Loegering at 3.72.

find more info at www.northstarleague.org

The NORTH STAR
LEAGUE SPECTATOR

CENTRAL



Went from 4th to first in 2006. Batting average raised from .276 to .308, 5th last year to first in '06. ERA was 6th in '05 at 3.03 and first this year at 2.27. Runs scored up from 100 to 146, runs allowed down from 86 to 52. Top producers—B. Avg—Keith Paulson at .412 (7 for 17) and Mike Freske, .377 (29 for 77). Hits—Freske 29 (led league) Runs—Tyler Carlson and Chris Volkman, 19. RBI's—Freske 23 (led league).

FINAL			
	W	L	G.B.
ST. MICHAEL	15	2	...
DASSEL-COKATO	12	5	3
HUTCHINSON	8	9	7
DELANO	8	9	7
MAPLE LAKE	7	10	8

Pitching leader was Adam McGrane in all categories—IP with 66, Wins with 7-0 record, K's with 63 and ERA at 0.69



D-C finished 2nd after tying for first last year. Hitting was up from .243 (10th) to .271 (5th). ERA of 2.38 (2nd) was higher than 2005 ERA of 1.59 (also 2nd). Team runs scored went from 90 to 104 and runs allowed rose from 40 to 65. Top BA belonged to Dave Birkholz who was 26 for 64 for a .328 average. Birkholz also scored the most runs with 17 and had the most hits, 26. RBI leader was Matt Bergstrom with 15.

Pitching leaders for 2006: IP Birkholz, 37, K's—John Riewer with 26. Best W-L record—Eric Hanson at 4-0 and lowest ERA to Hanson with 0.65, a number that would have led the league if he had pitched a couple more innings.



The Huskies improved from fifth to tied for third. Their team BA, 11th in 2005 at .237 ranked 7th this year at .273. Team ERA moved from 9th to 6th, 4.09 down to 3.71. Runs scored increased from 72 to 90 and runs allowed decreased from 101 to 89.

Hitting—BA - Luke Klitzke 19 for 53, .358 Runs—Jordan Schwarze, 15, Hits—Schwarze, 22 RBI's—Schwarze with 11.

Pitching—IP—Jim Farenbaugh, 45, Wins Corey Ryks and Farenbaugh with 3, Strikeouts—Ryks, 36 and the best ERA belonged to Farenbaugh at 2.58.

FINAL STATS

Player	AB	R	H	Ave
D Birkholz DC	68	17	26	382
M Freske StM	77	9	29	377
M Bergstrom DC	64	15	24	375
K Jerpseth ML	70	12	26	371
D Decker ML	57	11	21	368
B Kneefe StM	69	16	25	362
L Klitzke Hut	53	7	19	358
N Volkman StM	57	11	20	351
J Schwarze Hut	63	15	22	349
C Volkman StM	57	19	19	333
D Falde Del	64	12	21	328
T Carlson StM	71	19	23	324
P Burkstrand DC	50	10	16	320
M Peterson Del	66	9	21	318
T Thode Hut	63	6	20	317
J Wilson Del	60	8	19	317
T Decker ML	70	12	22	314
B Opsahl DC	65	8	20	308
K Jaunich Del	59	13	18	305
A Brown Del	63	9	19	302

HR Leader

B Opsahl	2
C Fobbe ML	2
B Kneefe StM	2
C Volkman StM	2
C Raiche ML	2
N Volkman StM	2

2B Leader

T Thode Hut 12

3B Leaders

J Schwarze 2

RBI Leader

M Freske SM 29

Pitching Leaders	IP	W	L	K	ERA
A McGrane StM	65	7-0	63	0.69	
J Janzen Del	58	4-4	40	2.47	
J Farenbaugh Hut	45	3-3	19	2.58	
D Birkholz DC	37	2-0	24	2.92	



A tie for third this year after a tie for first in 2005. The A's moved their average up from 6th to 5th, .267 to .274. Their ERA dropped from 5th best to 9th, 2.78 to 4.29. Runs scored up from 92 to 101 and runs allowed up from 75 to 115. Best average, Derek Falde, 21 for 64, .328. Most runs—Jeff Janzen, 14, most hits—Falde and Mike Peterson with 21. Peterson drove in the most runs with 13 RBI.

Jeff Janzen took the mound the most for Delano hurling 58 innings winning 4 with 40 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.47.



After tying for first in 2005, the Lakers dropped to fifth this year. They remained the second best hitting team in the league hitting .299 in '05 and .290 in '06. The team ERA, 7th last year at 3.16 finished 12th this year at 4.82. Runs scored dropped from 119 to 10 and runs allowed increased from 74 to 107.

Leading hitters—Cody Decker 11 for 27, .407 and Keith Jerpseth 26 for 70, .371. Most runs—Chad Raiche 16, Most hits—Jerpseth, 26 and tops in RBI's—Tyler Decker at 18.

Pitching—John Anderson, most IP with 43 and most K's, 23, best W-L record—Tyler Decker, 2-0 and lowest ERA was Todd DesMarais' mark of 3.43.



Baseball is an island of activity amidst a sea of statistics

North Star League Playoffs

East Division

Wednesday, July 19

#4 Albertville 8 #5 Rockford 4

Saturday, July 22

#3 Loretto 7 @ #2 Mound 3

@ #1 Maple Plain 6 Albertville 1

Sunday, July 22

@ Mound 11 Albertville 1

@ Maple Plain 18 Loretto 6

Friday, July 28

@ Loretto 10 Mound (home team) 0

Saturday, July 29

@ Maple Plain 2 Loretto 1

Maple Plain Diamond Devils are #1 Seed

Loretto Larks are #2 Seed

Regional Match-ups at Howard Lake

Loretto vs. Watkins on Friday 8/4 8:30 PM

Maple Plain vs. Cold Spring on Sat. 8/5 3:30 PM



North Star League Playoffs

West Division

Friday, July 21

@ #2 Buffalo 16 #3 Kingston 2

@ #1 Howard Lake 4 #4 Monticello 3

(14 Innings)

Sunday, July 22

Monticello 13 @ Kingston 0

Buffalo 12 @ Howard Lake 10

Friday, July 28

@ Howard Lake 10 Monticello 5

Saturday, July 29

Howard Lake vs. Buffalo

(Both Teams go to Regionals)

Rematch of Saturday Game if necessary

Regional Match-ups at Howard Lake

Buffalo vs. Eden Valley on Friday 8/4 6:00 PM

Howard Lake vs Kimball on Saturday 8/5 1:00 PM

Baseball is a fun game. It beats working for a living. ~Phil Linz

Class B Regional Playoffs

Wednesday, August 2 (best 2 of 3)

#6 Hamel @ #3 Hutchinson

#5 Maple Lake @ #4 Delano

Thursday, August 3

#3 Hutchinson @ #6 Hamel

#4 Delano @ #5 Maple Lake

Saturday, August 5 (if necessary)

Hamel vs. Hutchinson @ St. Michael

Maple Lake vs. Delano @ St. Michael

Sunday, August 6 (Round 2 –Double elimination)

All at St. Michael

Lowest seeded winner vs. St. Michael

Highest seeded winner vs. Dassel-Cokato

Wednesday August 9

Winners of Sundays games play

Thursday August 10

Losers of Sundays games play

Saturday August 12

The 2 teams with one loss play

Sunday August 13

Winner of 8/12 game vs. undefeated team

Rematch if necessary